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(54) PRODUCTION OF UNSATURATED NITRILE

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: Ammonoxydation of an olefin in vapor phase is conducted in the presence of a specific catalyst at elevated temperatures to keep high conversion and produce the corresponding unsaturated nitrile in high selectivity.

CONSTITUTION: The vapor-phase ammonoxydation of an olefin such as propylene or isobutylene is conducted in the presence of a catalyst at elevated temperatures to form the corresponding unsaturated nitrile wherein, as a catalyst, is used a composition represented by the general formula (X is at least one selected from P, As and Sb; A is alkali metal; B is at least one element selected from Ni, Co and W; aWh are atomic numbers, if a is 10, b and c are 0.1W10, d is 0.01W1, e and g are 0W10, f is 0W1, h has a value determined by valencies of the above elements other than oxygen, usually 31.5W112).

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